

The New Direction Congress:

Restoring Accountability



Widely-acclaimed Landmark Lobby And Ethics Reform

The New Direction Congress made restoring trust in government its fundamental commitment. On its first day, the House passed a sweeping rules package the toughest ethics reform in a generation that broke the link between lobbyists and legislators: no gifts, no private jets, and no meals from lobbyists.

With the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act now signed into law, Congress is demanding an unprecedented level of disclosure by lobbyists and lawmakers.

The reforms have been hailed by independent public interest groups as "landmark," "fundamental," and "sea change for citizens." Reforms include:

- ★ Mandating new transparency for lobbyists bundling donations and political campaign fund activity;
- ★ Ending the 'K-Street Project' by prohibiting Members of Congress and their staff from attempting to influence employment decisions in exchange for political access;
- ★ Enacting a strong lobbyist gift ban, limits on privately-funded travel, and a ban on House Members accepting trips on private planes;
- ★ Expanding public disclosure by requiring lobbyists to file twice as often each year, and for the first time to file
- ★ Denying Congressional retirement benefits to Members convicted of bribery, perjury and other similar crimes.